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NLRB TO ISSUE FINAL BOARD AND ALJ DECISIONS ONLINE

The National Labor Relations Board today announced a pilot project for the electronic issuance and service of final decisions of the Board and its Administrative Law Judges (ALJs).

Case issuance is the process through which final Board and ALJ decisions officially are announced to the parties and the public. Under current practice, decisions generally are issued at the close of the business day and copies are formally served on the parties, usually by U.S. mail. Decisions are then released to the public and posted on the NLRB website (www.nlr.gov) on the third business day following issuance.

Under the pilot project, final Board and ALJ decisions will be issued electronically (E-Issuance). Decisions will be issued at the close of each business day by being listed on a daily "docket sheet" posted on the NLRB website. The full text of Board and ALJ decisions will be posted on the NLRB website at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time the first business day following posting of the docket sheet.

Parties who voluntarily register for electronic service (E-Service) will receive, immediately upon posting of the docket sheet, an email constituting formal notice of the Board's or ALJ's decision and an electronic link to the decision. Accordingly, for those parties who opt for E-Service, the text of the Board or ALJ decision will be available to them the day before the decision is posted and publicly available on the NLRB website. Parties who do not register for E-Service will continue to receive formal service of the Board's or ALJ's decision by traditional means, usually via U.S. mail.

The pilot will be implemented in two stages, beginning in July 2008. In the first stage, parties will be allowed to opt in to the pilot program by registering for E-Service. During this registration period, parties to cases currently pending before the Board or the Division of Judges will receive a mailing from the Agency with instructions regarding how to register for E-Service. Registration is optional.

The second stage will begin in August 2008, when the Board will launch E-Issuance of all final Board and ALJ decisions. Parties who have registered for E-Service will then begin to receive, simultaneously with the posting of the docket sheet on the NLRB website, formal notice of the Board's or ALJ's decision in their case(s) via email with an immediate electronic link to the text of the decision.

In announcing the pilot, Chairman Peter C. Schaumber said:

This pilot program is the latest advancement in our implementation of the President's Management Agenda. E-Issuance of Board and ALJ decisions is the most consistent and effective way to make decisions promptly available to parties and the public. Parties who sign up for E-Issuance will receive decisions immediately upon issuance, regardless of their location. E-Issuance will make the Board's processes and documents more readily accessible to the public, and will result in significant cost savings to the Agency.

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